



**Bulletin 2024-7**  
**Rally Competition Rule Changes for 2024**  
1/13/2024

The following changes to the ARA Rally Competition Rules are effective immediately and in place in the 2024 RCR book.

### **Arrowing updates**

#### 1.3.1 Arrowing

Double and triple cautions are to be arrowed or marked with an appropriate sign. Additional arrowing may be used at the discretion of the organizer. Where arrowing is used, the system should be similar conform to the following:

**Rationale:** Adjust the wording to give organizers more flexibility in arrowing the course.

### **RCR 3.1c update**

c) The time of the first car scheduled "0" is to be included for every control identified in the route book.

**Rationale:** Best practice is putting the first competition car within the schedule rather than the 0 car.

### **Restart after retirement clarification and NCE addition.**

#### 6.3 Restart after Retirement

In rallies with more than one Leg, any crew that has failed to complete a Leg can restart from the start of the next Leg only if they confirm their intention to do so in writing to the Clerk of the Course no later than 60 minutes before the scheduled start of the next Leg. This written notice will include the reason for retirement (e.g., accident, technical problem, etc.) and state their willingness to have the competition vehicle scrutineered again before restarting. Crews must complete the check-in procedure in at least one control to be eligible for restart after retirement.

#### 6.3.2 Non-Competitive Entry

A crew may request to rejoin an event as a non-competitive entry within a Leg by submitting a rejoin request to the Clerk of the Course. The Clerk of the Course or designee will determine if the request will be granted. The crew will not be scored while

a non-competitive entry and the competition vehicle must comply with the ARA Technical Rules to be considered for rejoining. A non-competitive entry may rejoin competition under 6.3 at the next available opportunity.

**Rationale:** While this practice has been in place for the last couple of years (if not longer), it was not within the rules.

## Technical Violation Penalty Updates

6.5.2 Violations Found During Or After The Rally Violations found during the course of the rally or at the post-event impound/inspection, that are not due to a verifiable incident with supporting documentation, shall be penalized as listed below.

- 1st violation within a championship season– Exclusion from rally ~~Two championship category class positions and ineligibility for Power Stage and Cup points (if applicable)~~
- 2nd violation within a championship season – Exclusion from rally
- 3rd violation within a championship season ~~and subsequent violations~~ – Exclusion from rally, forfeiture of any earned championship points, revocation of competition license, not to be reissued by ARA.

**Rationale:** This change brings our technical penalties inline with all international rally championships and most motorsports. Also, added more severe penalties for repeat offenders.

## Overtaking Rules Addition

### 5.16 Overtaking

Any crew caught by another while on stage must make the necessary move to allow overtaking. This applies notably if one has lost time due to a technical failure or has gone off the road before restarting. If the cars are equipped with a car-to-car communication device, a request for overtaking may be received. The readiness to be overtaken should be shown by appropriate flashing indicators (e.g. left indicator means that the car being overtaken will stay to the left side of the road). The crew being overtaken shall make every effort to facilitate the overtaking maneuver, such as stopping in a safe place. The crews are responsible for ensuring that no danger is caused by overtaking. Failure to allow overtaking may be subject to penalty under RCR 6.4.

The Clerk of the Course, upon inquiry and only with the concurrence of the Steward(s), shall have the right to grant a time allowance to a competitor who has been prevented from overtaking.

### 5.12.1 Competitor Obstruction

If a stopped competitor blocks the route for succeeding competitors (e.g., with a winch cable), that crew shall be subject to a ~~minimum~~ penalty under RCR 6.4 ~~of exclusion from the event.~~

### 6.7 Baulking

~~No claim is allowable for baulking. However, the Steward(s) may exclude an entry found to have unreasonably delayed another entry.~~

**Rationale:** The expectations on how a crew should act if caught on stage has not been clear or within the rules. The rule now gives competitors the procedure and understanding of the enforcement.



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